

Department of Legislative Services  
 Maryland General Assembly  
 2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 546 (Delegate Lierman)  
 Environment and Transportation

Maryland Transit Administration Oversight and Planning Board

This bill establishes the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) Oversight and Planning Board within the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and establishes provisions related to membership, duties, and staffing of the board.

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) expenditures increase by approximately \$60,900 in FY 2016 to hire an administrator to staff the board. Future years reflect annualization, inflation, and the elimination of one-time costs. The board may require additional staff in future years after it is fully established. Revenues are not affected.

(in dollars)	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SF Expenditure	60,900	81,800	85,300	89,000	92,800
Net Effect	(\$60,900)	(\$81,800)	(\$85,300)	(\$89,000)	(\$92,800)

*Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate effect*

**Local Effect:** Local expenditures for Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties and Baltimore City increase to the extent that those jurisdictions provide staff to assist the board. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** Minimal.

## Analysis

### Bill Summary:

#### *Board Membership and Staffing*

Board members are specified in the bill. Each member appointed by the Governor serves a three-year term and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The board must (1) annually elect a chair and vice chair from among its members; (2) establish specified ethics policies and procedures; (3) adopt bylaws to govern its operations; (4) meet as often as is necessary to carry out its duties; and (5) keep minutes of its meetings and maintain proper records of all transactions.

A board member may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses.

MTA must provide principal staff for the board and must designate an executive director or other staff to provide assistance to the board; however, additional staff may be provided by the entities represented on the board.

#### *Responsibilities of the Board*

The board must:

- engage in specified strategic transit planning, including (1) developing and adapting intermediate and long-range strategic transit plans concerning the transit needs of MTA's operations zones; (2) acting as a gatekeeper for local, State, and federal planning processes; (3) reviewing and commenting on long-range plans under the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP); and (4) reviewing and commenting on transportation operations, plans, and services proposed by or for specified jurisdictions;
- have approval authority over (1) MTA's annual operating plan for core services, public safety, and marketing and (2) specific policies and decisions that are key to MTA service quality;
- solicit consumer input and evaluate transit system priorities and resource allocation;
- review MTA policies and procedures when called into question by citizen complaints;
- convene subcommittees to gather information and study specified topics;
- designate a board member to (1) oversee citizens' advisory councils established in areas served by MTA and (2) submit reports about their activities and concerns;

- adopt policies that encourage MTA practices that promote public safety, transparency, accountability, customer service, regular communication with the public, and prudent financial decision making;
- by September 30 of each year, compile and submit to the Governor and the General Assembly a report concerning MTA’s progress in meeting the strategic plan adopted by the board; and
- review and revise the strategic transit plan of the board for MTA every five years.

**Current Law/Background:** MTA operates a comprehensive transit system throughout the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan area, including more than 50 local bus lines in Baltimore and other services such as the light rail, Metro subway, commuter buses, MARC trains, and mobility/paratransit vehicles. MTA is currently the lead agency for coordinating the financing, construction, and future operation of both the Red Line and Purple Line transit projects.

Long-term transportation planning in the State is a collaborative process designed to consider input from the public, local jurisdictions, metropolitan planning organizations, and elected officials. State law requires the Secretary of Transportation to present the draft CTP to elected officials and discuss it with them. CTP, which is issued annually to the General Assembly, local elected officials, and interested citizens, provides a description of projects proposed by MDOT for development and evaluation or construction over the next six-year period.

**State Expenditures:** TTF expenditures increase by \$60,874 in fiscal 2016, which accounts for the bill’s October 1, 2015 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one administrator to staff and assist the board. The estimate assumes that the local government entities represented on the board provide additional staff to assist the board with its extensive list of duties.

	<b><u>FY 2016</u></b>
Position	1
Salary and Fringe Benefits	\$54,151
Operating Expenses	2,438
Start-up Costs	<u>4,285</u>
<b>Total FY 2016 State Expenditures</b>	<b>\$60,874</b>

Future year expenditures reflect a full salary with annual increases as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses, including reimbursement of expenses for board members. Future year expenditures could be higher to the extent MTA needs to hire additional staff after the board is fully established and operating.

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Transportation, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 22, 2015  
md/lgc

---

Analysis by: Richard L. Duncan

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510